

LIBRARY



E X M O U T H U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for

1946.

W.J.DOYLE . M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
B.Sc., (Public Health)L.M.

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report is prepared in the abbreviated form recommended by the Ministry of Health. Arrangements have been made for the careful preservation of all records so that a comprehensive report will be submitted in due course.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE AREA .

AREA (in acres)	5,295.
Estimate of Resident Population (mid.1946)	16,200.
No: of inhabited houses (end of 1946.)	5,000 (approx.)
Rateable value (as at 31st December 1946.)	£173,995.
Birth Rate per 1,000	19.13.
Death Rate per 1,000	19.9
Infant Mortality	38.7

2.

Causes of Death in Exmouth Urban District

1946.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory systems.	5	4
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases.	1	-
9. Influenza.	1	3
10. Measles.	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and encephalitis.	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis (Lethargica)	-	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus and uterus.	3	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	1	2
15. Cancer of breast.	-	7
16. Cancer of all other sites.	27	19
17. Diabetes.	1	3
18. Intracranial vascular lesions.	15	41
19. Heart disease.	36	63
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system.	6	9
21. Bronchitis.	6	5
22. Pneumonia.	5	6
23. Other respiratory diseases.	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.	-	-
26. Appendicitis.	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.	2	5
28. Nephritis.	-	1
29. Puerperal and post abortion sepsis.	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.	-	1
31. Premature birth.	2	1
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries, Infantile diseases.	3	3
33. Suicide.	3	2
34. Road traffic accidents.	1	1
35. Other violent causes.	3	2
36. All Other causes.	8	7

Total all causes. 131

191

3.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox			
Scarlet Fever.	13	12	
Diphtheria	3	3	
Typhoid (including Para-Typhoid.)			
Puerperal Fever.	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1		
Pneumonia	4		2
Erysipelas.			
Measles.	11		
Whooping Cough.	53		
Dysentery.	1		
Poliomyelitis.			

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4.

Analysis of Notified cases of Infectious Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis)
according to age -groups.

Age Group.	Poliomyelitis.	By sentry	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Frysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Puerperal Fever.	Typhoid (including Paratyphoid.)	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Smallpox.	TOTAL.
0			8	2	1	2							
1			12	2	1	2							
2			9	1	2	3							
3			5	2	3	6							
4				1	13								
5													
10													
15													
20													
35													
45													
65 and upwards.													
TOTAL.			13	3	1	1	4					11	53

1. 5.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was little epidemic disease during the year. Although there was an increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough, they did not reach epidemic proportions. There was a marked decrease in the cases of Measles for last year.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified from the Childrens' Seaside Home. They were very slight and might easily be confused with acute tonsilitis, but the swabs were positive and, as a measure of safety the cases were removed to Hospital. A search was made for carriers and three carriers were found among the children, all of whom received 500 units of Anti-toxin and 0.2 c.c.s. of A.P.T. as a protective measure. No further case occurred and the two others made a rapid and uninterrupted recovery.

During the year a circular was sent out to all food handlers in shops, hotels, etc. where food is prepared for sale to the public, impressing upon them the importance of washing their hands on resuming work after an interval and after they have used the toilet. In addition, reminder cards were distributed to each of them to ensure that the staffs did not forget the necessity of this procedure.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is from two sources, an upland surface collection and a deep borehole.

Squabmoor is the catchment area for the upland surface water and its untreated condition is unsafe for use, but after filtering and chlorination, yields a bacteriologically pure water. The main supply from Dotton borehole is at all times satisfactory. An additional borehole in the neighbourhood of Dotton is contemplated owing to the increasing demand.

The water from Squabmoor has a strong plumbago solvent action but the wise decision of the Urban District Council in insisting that all the pipes carrying drinking water shall be of galvanised iron, has prevented any ill effects to the consumers. Because of this provision it has not been necessary to make any analysis in this connection.

There is a small supplementary supply at Bystock. It is an upland surface supply and is pumped to a reservoir on Pine Ridge. It has been intermittently unsatisfactory in the past, but new pressure filters and an automatic chlorinating plant have been installed and uniformly satisfactory samples have been collected since. During the year 48 samples have been taken and of these three were unsatisfactory.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity. Bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and also of the piped supply. Samples taken of the Dotton water supply before treatment show that the water is free from contamination.

7.

The results of a few of the 48 samples are as follows:-

Sampled. 27th November, 1946.

W 1137 Weir of Reservoir at Squabmoor.
Probable number coli-aerogenes per 100 ml. = 600.
This sample is grossly unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

Sampled 24th September, 1946.

W 1175 Rolle St. Exmouth Main Supply.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.
This sample is of a satisfactory standard of purity.

Sampled 18th November, 1946.

W 1121 1 Dotton Cottages. Tap.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml = nil.
This sample is of a satisfactory standard of purity.

W 1102 Rolle St. Exmouth Tap.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.
This sample is of a satisfactory standard of purity.

Sampled 20th May. 1946.

W 389 Higher Filters, Exmouth. Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml = nil.

W 390 Bystock Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml = nil.

W 392 Lower Filters. Exmouth.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

Sampled 11th October, 1946.

W 491 Lower Filters Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

W 492 Higher Filters Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

W 493 Bystock Reservoir.
Probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil.

Each of the above samples is of a satisfactory standard of purity.

Where samples were found to be unsatisfactory repeat samples were taken in order to obviate any possible error in sampling and the results were uniformly satisfactory.

There are 5,040 dwelling houses supplied from public water mains and only two houses in the district are supplied by stand pipes.

There was no work carried on regarding drainage and sewerage in the district during the year.

In the Autumn of the year groups of members of the Public Health Committee visited the Laboratory and were very interested in the scope of the work that was carried out therein. It gave the members an understanding of the interpretation of the various reports that are presented to them from time to time in the Public Health Committee.

Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases etc.

The County Council is responsible for the supervision and treatment of cases of tuberculosis, venereal disease, maternity and child welfare, the care of premature infants and of illegitimate children.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This service has carried on in temporary premises at the Exmouth Dispensary. Clinics were held weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and the following attendances were made:

<u>Total no: of attendances of mothers.</u>	<u>Total no: of babies attending.</u>	<u>Total no: of toddlers attending.</u>
2,142. (of which 159 cases were new)	1,797 (of which 145 cases. : were new)	494 (of which 21 cases were new.)

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In the Exmouth district children may go either to their own doctors or to the Clinic in order to be Immunised against Diphtheria. The service is free of charge. The clinic was held once a month at the Exmouth Dispensary. A special drive was undertaken in September and October with the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners in the town. Children in every home where there was no record of Immunisation received a propaganda leaflet advising the facilities existing. The local practitioners ran special clinics in their homes on October 1st. and November 5th and the Diphtheria Immunisation Centre was also open on these days. As a result of this drive over 200 children were Immunised and many received their 'boost' injection.

	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>Over 5 but under 16.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
No: of children who completed full course.	195	122	317
No: of children who received re-inforcement doses.		150.	

School Clinic.

This clinic has continued on Monday and Thursday mornings at the Exmouth Dispensary. The numbers of school children treated at the Clinic during the year was 2,452 (of which 825 were new cases.)

Disinfestation. Regular inspections are made by the School Nurses to all the school children in the town. A clinic is held every Friday morning at the Exmouth Dispensary where Lethane and D.T.T. are used.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>
Premises visited	739	1882
New drains	39	107
Drains repaired	33	75
Nuisances abated	112	258
...C.C.'s constructed & repaired	58	134
Disinfection of bedding (lots)	34	--
Disinfection of houses	36	58
Common lodging houses.	1	4
Food shops.	98	759
Bakehouses.	24	32
Dairies and cowsheds	49	121
Ashbins provided.	5	11
House roofs repaired	52	73
House yard paving repaired.	1	2
House walls and floors repaired	102	141
Other house repairs.	95	107
Number of Informal notices served (general)		130
<u>Eradication of Bed Bugs.</u>		
Number of houses (other than council) found to be infested		2
Number of houses (-do) disinfested.		2
<u>Housing.</u>		
Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects		302
Number of inspections made for the purpose		376
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.		130
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.		130
<u>Inspection and Supervision of Food.</u>		

Milk Supply.

The 26 cowsheds and 23 milk shops in the area have been systematically inspected, samples were taken and tested by the County Bacteriologist with the following results:-

11.

<u>Description of milk.</u>	<u>No: of Samples.</u>	<u>Passed Accred- ited Standard.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>
Unadulterated	20	20	-
With Repeat.	-	-	-
With	-	-	-
With	-	-	-
With	46	35	11
With Repeat.	11	8	3
With	3	2	1
With	1	1	-
With	-	-	-
Unadulterated.	1	1	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION. (under Factories Act, 1937.)

<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
95	2	Nil.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Regular visits were paid to meat shops, cook meat shops and fish shops where food is sold or prepared. Visits were also paid to the provision stores and the amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year was 1 ton 1 cwt 3 qrs. 25 lbs.

Icecream.

During the latter six months of the year 39 samples of ice cream have been taken from manufacturers in the district, for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory.

The results were communicated to the respective producers and advice given as to how they could improve and maintain cleanliness in their methods of production.

This procedure has helped the larger producers to eliminate some of the causes of contamination and with their co-operation a marked improvement has been made in the bacteriological standard of the product.

RATS & MICE.

General. During the year there were complaints regarding rats and mice, all of them being dealt with either by the occupier or the Council. Most of the complaints about rats were from private houses where poultry was being kept in the gardens.

13.

Treatments.

Sewer Rats:- As requested by the Ministry of Food a test was made of the sewers for sewer rats from 17th June, 1946 to 6th July, 1946. 13% of the total manholes were treated and 584 baits laid.

As four consecutive "no takes" were recorded for each manhole baited the sewer system was considered to be free from rats.

Council Property:- During the year 8 treatments have been carried out at the King George V Ground Refuse Tip, 2 at the Depot and 1 at Marpool Hall and its outbuildings.

Withycombe Brook:- A complete treatment was made from end to end and follow up treatments made to clear any residual infestation.

During the year 147 visits were made and it is estimated that a total of some 580 rats have been exterminated.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W.J. DOYLE.

